

SENATE BILL 77

By Beavers

AN ACT to name a segment of State Route 53 in Clay County in honor of the late Frank B. Halsell.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those exemplary public servants who contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of this honor than the late Frank B. Halsell, who distinguished himself as one of Clay County's finest citizens during his lifetime; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Halsell was a person of impeccable morals and irreproachable integrity, and he worked to establish a brighter future for his friends and neighbors in Clay County as a devoted public servant and proficient civic leader; and

WHEREAS, a true gentleman and a man of conviction, Frank Halsell was a renowned figure throughout Clay County, where he served in three different government offices during an illustrious career that spanned three decades and almost forty years; and

WHEREAS, the son of the late Benjamin Halsell and Effie Woods Halsell, Mr. Halsell was born in the Clementsville community of Clay County in 1920; he married the former Avos Boone in 1942, and the couple set up a lifelong residence in Moss, Tennessee, shortly afterward; and

WHEREAS, a true patriot, he was a decorated veteran of World War II and was wounded in the infamous Battle of the Bulge, which was the largest land battle of World War II in which the United States participated; Frank Halsell received the United States Purple Heart as a result of injuries he incurred in that battle; and

WHEREAS, after the war, he wasted little time beginning his political career; in 1948, he was elected to a District Road Supervisor seat representing the Moss area, a post which became for him a springboard to county-wide office; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Halsell won his first race for County Trustee in 1950 and was re-elected three times to that office, serving until 1966. He then set his sights on the office of County Judge, an office which later became known as County Executive and is now known as County Mayor; and

WHEREAS, in 1966, Frank Halsell won his first race for County Judge and won re-election to that office three times, serving until he lost the post to a challenger. He then returned to defeat the incumbent in 1986 and served part of a fifth term as the Clay County Executive before taking a much deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Halsell served with acumen and alacrity as County Judge/Executive, earning the respect of his colleagues and constituents alike for the exemplary quality of his work and his stalwart dedication to duty; and

WHEREAS, Judge Halsell helped recruit industry to the area, playing an instrumental role in the location of Crotty, Hevi-Duty, and Hermitage Springs OshKosh in Clay County during his terms as County Judge. He was also a committee member of the Small Business Administration for fifteen years and helped secure loans for businesses throughout the area; and

WHEREAS, a man of integrity and honor, Frank Halsell used his tenure in office to build bridges of trust and cooperation as a public servant in Clay County; and

WHEREAS, he was a charter member of the Celina Lions Club, a Mason, and a Shriner. He was also a member of the Disabled American Veterans and the American Legion, served as a member of the Bank of Celina Advisory Council for many years, and was a member of the Board of Directors for the Twin Lakes Telephone Cooperative for thirty-five years; and

WHEREAS, the Clay County Commission has petitioned this body to name a certain segment of State Route 53 to honor Mr. Halsell's illustrious memory and to permanently commemorate his bountiful life of purpose and commitment; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly most heartily concurs with this excellent proposal; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the segment of State Route 53 in Clay County from the Clay County - Jackson County boundary to a point one (1) mile north of such boundary is hereby designated the "Frank B. Halsell Memorial Highway" as a lasting tribute to an excellent public servant and even more accomplished human being.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the segment of State Route 53 described in Section 1 as the "Frank B. Halsell Memorial Highway".

SECTION 3. The erection of such directional signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the department of transportation from non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this act. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated

cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the department in non-state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.